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Agenda items 36, 37, 44, 56, 101 and 160

The situation in the Middle East

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Peace, security and reunification on the Korean peninsula

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 4 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint communiqué on the outcome of the meeting of the Council of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, adopted in Moscow on 23 November 2002 (see annex).

On behalf of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and as the representative of the country in which the meeting was held, I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, 37, 44, 56, 101 and 160, and also of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**

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Annex to the letter dated 4 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint communiqué on the outcome of the meeting of the Foreign Ministers Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

On 23 November 2002, a meeting of the Foreign Ministers Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Moscow. The participants were: Tang Jiaxuan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China; Kasymzhomart Tokayev, Secretary of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Askar Aitmatov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic; Igor Ivanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; Talbak Nazarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan; and Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

A constructive and intense debate was held on two sets of issues: SCO activities and urgent international problems.

It was noted with satisfaction that cooperation within the framework of SCO in various fields, as provided for in the organization's Charter, signed at the highest level on 7 June 2002 in St. Petersburg, has been developing steadily and becoming ever more diverse. The sides agreed to prepare concrete proposals for further structuring and deepening multilateral cooperation in the framework of the organization in advance of the next meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the six countries.

The ministers noted that, in accordance with the agreements reached at the St. Petersburg meeting of the heads of the member States SCO, intensive work was under way to put into operation speedily SCO mechanisms. Thus far, key questions had been decided concerning the establishment of the SCO secretariat in Beijing, and common approaches to resolving issues relating to the SCO budget and the establishment of the headquarters of the SCO Regional Antiterrorist Structure in Bishkek had been worked out. The National Coordinators Council and relevant expert working groups were in the process of preparing the draft international legal instruments necessary to ensure the functioning of SCO and its agencies, with a view to their submission for signature at the next meeting of heads of State in 2003.

It was deemed advisable that the foreign-policy departments of the six countries, guided by the St. Petersburg Declaration, signed at the highest level, should agree specific proposals, in advance of the next meeting of the Foreign Ministers Council, for promoting multilateral cooperation in the framework of SCO to counter the growing threat of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

On the basis of the fundamental principle of the openness of SCO and the fact that its activities are not directed against any States or international associations, and striving to ensure that SCO, an organization already in the process of being established, can actively participate in international relations and make a genuine contribution to strengthening stability, security and peace at the regional and global levels, the Ministers have signed an Interim Framework governing SCO relations

with other international organizations and States, to apply until the entry into force of the corresponding permanent SCO normative instruments.

Having exchanged views on the world situation, the Ministers noted the urgent need to strengthen the efforts of all countries in combating international terrorism, separatism and extremism, organized crime, illicit trafficking in drugs and arms, the spread of weapons of mass destruction and the means for their delivery, environmental degradation, the depletion of natural resources, mass illegal migration, persistent poverty and backwardness, HIV/AIDS and other new challenges. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the speedy establishment of a global system for counteracting contemporary threats and challenges, to include appropriate multilateral cooperation mechanisms, inter alia, for early warning and the prevention of emerging threats, as well as a resolute and commensurate response, to them.

At the meeting, it was pointed out that, although the fight against terrorism was assuming global proportions, terrorist acts had not ceased and continued to pose a very grave threat to international peace and security. In that connection, the Ministers expressed firm support for the resolute actions taken by the leaders of the Russian Federation to free hostages during the terrorist act that took place in October 2002 in Moscow, causing the death of a large number of innocent people.

The Ministers consider it an urgent task for the international community to strengthen the international legal basis for counter-terrorism, including through the earliest adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, with a simultaneous strengthening of the leadership role of the United Nations in combating terrorism. SCO member States support the international community's efforts to block the channels for financing terrorist activities, and also fully support the provisions of the Declaration on Measures to Counter the Financing of Terrorism approved by the Regional Forum (AFR) of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in July 2002.

The Ministers noted a common understanding that the strengthening of stability in the Central Asian region continued to constitute a top priority for the SCO member States in the field of security. In this context, they reaffirmed the intention of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to promote cooperation with international associations operating in the region.

The Ministers expressed concern at the upsurge in separatist tendencies in various Asian countries and the growing links between terrorism and separatism. They declared their firm resolve to continue to support fully States' efforts to ensure their sovereignty and territorial integrity and stressed the inadmissibility of attempts to justify terrorism and separatism on religious, national or political grounds.

The Ministers reaffirmed the common interest of SCO member States in Afghanistan's peaceful development and expressed support for Afghanistan's Transitional Authority in its efforts to normalize and stabilize the situation in the country and to achieve economic reconstruction pursuant to the Bonn Agreement of 5 December 2001, the decisions of the Loya Jirga convened in June 2002 and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

International cooperation to eliminate terrorism in Afghanistan was given a positive assessment. At the same time, serious concern was expressed at the evident

growth in narcotic drugs production as the chief source of financing for internal armed conflict and international terrorism, and the drug danger threatening SCO member countries. Proposals to establish anti-drug "security zones" along Afghanistan's borders were deemed useful in that connection.

The Ministers agreed that the six SCO member States would intensify their exchange of views on Afghan issues, inter alia, through their Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, including the questions of providing assistance to Afghanistan in tackling social and economic problems and rendering humanitarian aid to the Afghan people.

The Ministers voiced their support for international efforts — collective or individual — promoting the search for ways to establish peace and stability in the Middle East, as well as for the unconditional implementation by both parties to the conflict of the well-known United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The Ministers expressed the hope that Security Council resolution 1441 (2002) on Iraq as well as the resumption of the activities of international inspectors in Iraq would make it possible to settle the Iraq problem by peaceful means and with observance of all international norms.

The Ministers endorsed the nuclear-free status of the Korean peninsula, reaffirmed their support for the position in favour of settling relevant issues through peaceful dialogue, and emphasized that the maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula was in the interests of all parties.

The Ministers considered that multilateral negotiation mechanisms for safeguarding security in Asia should complement each other rather than compete with one another.

The Ministers call for the promotion of a working relationship between SCO and ASEAN for the purpose of intensifying information exchange and cooperation.

The Ministers spoke in favour of the further dynamic development of the process pursued at the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia in accordance with the principles adopted at the Conference's First Summit (Almaty on 4 June 2002).

Support for the establishment in Asia of nuclear-weapon-free zones was reaffirmed on the understanding that such zones must take full account of the interests and concerns of all States.

The SCO member countries stand ready to engage in substantive cooperation on a basis of equality with all interested States and international associations in promoting peace and development in the region and throughout the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 111
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/57/85). In the course of its deliberations, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications.

2. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 2 of the report that, in establishing a preliminary estimate for the biennium 2004-2005, the current level of appropriations and related commitments, namely, $2,699.9 million, was taken as the starting point. On that basis, the Secretary-General proposes a preliminary estimate of resources for the biennium 2004-2005, expressed in initial 2002-2003 prices, amounting to $2,857.9 million, as shown in the table contained in paragraph 2 of the report. As indicated in paragraph 12 of the report of the Secretary-General, the preliminary estimate, excluding special political missions, reflects real growth of $47.8 million or 1.8 per cent, compared with the approved appropriations and related provisions for the biennium 2002-2003. Once account is taken of the full inclusion of required provisions for special political missions, the total preliminary estimate of $2,857.9 million would represent an increase of $158.0 million, or 5.8 per cent, compared with existing provisions for the biennium 2002-2003.

3. The Advisory Committee recalls its observation in paragraph 3 of its previous report on the budget outline (A/55/685) that the purpose of the budget outline is to provide Member States with a preliminary indication of the resources that may be required in the coming biennium.

4. As indicated in paragraph 3 of the report of the Secretary-General, an amount of $25.3 million would be required for full biennial provision in 2004-2005 for posts that are partially funded in the current biennium. These are new posts at the

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Professional level and above, which had been costed at 50 per cent for the biennium 2002-2003. The Advisory Committee notes the proposal of the Secretary-General, in paragraph 3 of his report, that consideration will be given to costing all new posts on a full-cost basis. **The Advisory Committee finds no convincing arguments for changing the current costing parameters for new posts at the Professional level and above categories, in view of the delays in recruitment for new posts experienced by the Secretariat, and to preserve the transparency inherent in separating the delayed recruitment factor for new posts from the vacancy rate for continuing posts.**

5. As indicated in paragraph 4 of the report, a provision of $47.8 million, relating to one-time costs in 2002-2003, would not be required. This provision related mainly to one-time construction costs associated with security enhancement at Headquarters and offices away from Headquarters; in addition, these are non-recurrent costs for substantive and public information support for the special sessions of the General Assembly and associated plenary meetings on children and for special conferences on financing for development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

6. The preliminary estimates for the biennium 2004-2005 include a provision of $29.8 million in respect of the need to ensure that information technology and common services facilities infrastructure are brought to the levels which will not prejudice programme delivery. The Committee notes from paragraph 5 of the report that these resources are envisaged to be distributed across the parts of the budget which were affected by the economy measures instituted consequent upon the adoption of the 2002-2003 initial appropriations. **While the Committee does not question the need for adequate investments in technological innovations and facilities infrastructure at the United Nations, it is of the view that more information should have been provided in support of the estimated requirements of $29.8 million, especially on the programmatic impact of the reductions it is intended to offset. In this connection, as indicated in its report on the performance report (A/57/7/Add.16, para. 3), the Advisory Committee intends to consider, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, appropriate changes to the performance report in the light of the development of results-based budgeting.**

7. The budget outline includes an amount of $40.5 million for new or expanded activities or events foreseen and/or mandated in 2004-2005. As indicated in paragraph 6 of the report of the Secretary-General, these resources would be required in connection with reinforcement of programmes to enhance capacity for meeting strategies outlined in the "road map" (A/56/326), including strengthening peace-building, human rights and humanitarian assistance, the economic and social sector, as well as conference-servicing and the United Nations Office at Nairobi. In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that provision for peace-building activities is supposed to be covered under the lump-sum allocation for special political and other missions. Provisions are also envisaged for follow-on requirements for strengthening of the security improvements at the United Nations Office at Geneva, including additional building protection improvements and implementation of the second phase of the intermediate surveillance system. With regard to the security improvements at the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Advisory Committee recalls that this provision for Geneva in the biennium 2004-2005 was foreseen in paragraph 18 of the report of the Secretary-General on

strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/56/848), which included the following sentence: "The further strengthening of the security infrastructure, including additional building protection improvements, partitioning of buildings and implementation of the second phase of the intermediate surveillance system, which are estimated at this stage in the amount of $5.6 million, would be proposed in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005." No other requirements for security enhancements were foreseen at other duty stations in respect of the biennium 2004-2005 in the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/848) and, hence, none are reflected in the outline for other duty stations.

8. As indicated in paragraph 7 of the budget outline, the requirements for special political missions are projected at the level of the current biennium, that is, $223.3 million. According to the Secretary-General, while the present composition of special political missions will change somewhat in the biennium 2004-2005, it is not anticipated that the overall level will trend downwards. Taking into account the existing provision of $113.1 million made by the General Assembly for special political missions, an additional amount of $110.2 million has been included by the Secretary-General in the budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005.

9. **The Advisory Committee points out that the requirements for special political missions in the amount of $223.3 million gross, shown in paragraph 7 of the report of the Secretary-General, were estimated about six months ago, in May-June 2002. The Secretariat has recently informed the Committee that the updated requirements for special political missions for the biennium 2002-2003 are now estimated at $215 million gross ($201.2 million net) (see A/57/7/Add.17, annex I). The related recommendations of the Committee on the estimates (see para. 49 of A/57/7/Add.17), subject to the approval of the General Assembly, would entail their further reduction from $215 million gross ($201.2 million net) to $206 million gross ($192.2 million net); the question of the financing of the special political missions during the biennium 2002-2003 is currently under consideration by the General Assembly. The Committee points out that any projection of this estimate for 2004-2005 should take into account the fact that it includes requirements for missions which will be terminated or for which mandates will be altered in scope. On the other hand, it could also be assumed that there may be new mandates for missions which are at present unforeseen. Under the circumstances, for purposes of the preliminary estimate, and bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 11 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 41/213, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the provision for special political missions in the outline should not exceed $170 million gross.**

10. In paragraph 8 of the budget outline (A/57/85), the Secretary-General invites the General Assembly "to consider whether special political missions are susceptible for treatment within the present regular budget procedures for estimating requirements in the budget outline and subsequent programme budgets".

11. **In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that, in paragraph 8 of its report on the budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/685), the Committee observed that "inasmuch as the requirements for special political missions are of a continuing nature, the estimates should continue to be included in the budget outline". The Committee also pointed out that, as reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/206, the outline should**

provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium, promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process and thereby facilitate the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget. The Committee observed, in this connection, that omission of the requirements for special political missions runs counter to those purposes and recommended that "an amount for special political missions be included in the budget outline". The Advisory Committee finds no convincing reasons for changing its views on this matter at this time and believes that more experience is required before consideration is given to changing the current procedure, which has been in place only since the outline for the biennium 2002-2003. The Committee therefore recommends that provision for special political missions should continue to be included in the outline.

12. The size of the contingency fund is discussed in paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General. As stated therein, the size of the contingency fund is recommended by the Secretary-General to be maintained at 0.75 per cent of the proposed outline for the biennium 2004-2005, or $21.4 million. **The Advisory Committee concurs with the Secretary-General's proposal and points out that the contingency fund will be utilized in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211. This should be brought to the attention of governing bodies whenever decisions involving financial implications are taken.**

13. The Advisory Committee was informed on 12 December 2002 that the 2004-2005 budget outline figure of $2,857.9 million would be replaced by $2,975.1 million when using the same set of rates and standard costing assumptions which have been applied to the first performance report for the biennium 2002-2003. The Advisory Committee points out that the overall level of estimated requirements for the biennium 2004-2005 would depend, in part, on the decision of the General Assembly on the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission currently under consideration in the Fifth Committee.

14. **The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly adopt a preliminary estimate of $2,920.0 million for the biennium 2004-2005 at the revised 2002-2003 rates. Before adopting this outline level, the General Assembly may also wish to take into account the observations and comments made by the Advisory Committee in the paragraphs above. These comments and observations should also be taken into account by the Secretary-General when preparing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.**

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 22 (l)
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Letter dated 6 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the discussion under agenda item 22 (l) entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe" that took place at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 21 November 2002. Taking into consideration your appeal to delegations to be concise, as well as the late hour of the meeting, I chose not to engage in a prolonged discussion initiated and intended by the Armenian delegate to mislead, as usual, the Member States.

Therefore, with regard to the misstatement by the Armenian delegate that the Republic of Armenia is not a party to the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I confined myself to referring to the basic document of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) establishing Armenia as one of two main parties to the conflict. It should be recalled that this document was adopted in March 1992 by the Ministerial meeting of OSCE, an organization that is the main mediator in the negotiation process.

The responsibility of the Republic of Armenia for and its direct participation in the ongoing conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan is a well-established fact recognized by the international community as a whole, first of all in Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993), and 884 (1993), as well as General Assembly resolution 49/13, a resolution that was adopted by consensus, which Armenia voluntarily joined.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the recent international recognition of the responsibility of the Republic of Armenia for the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan was reflected in the documents issued by the European Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in August 2002, regarding so-called "presidential elections" that had been conducted in the Azerbaijani territories occupied by Armenia (see annex I and II, respectively).

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The two organizations joined a number of national Governments in condemning these illegitimate actions by the Armenian side, and once again reiterated their support for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Turkey, Cyprus and Malta, as well as the member countries of the European Free Trade Association also aligned themselves with the above-mentioned statement issued by the European Union.

I would appreciate it if you could arrange for the present letter and its annexes to be circulated urgently as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 22 (l).

(*Signed*) Yashar T. **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the letter dated 6 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: English/French/Spanish]

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on forthcoming "Presidential elections" in Nagorno Karabakh

The European Union confirms its support for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and recalls that it does not recognize the independence of Nagorno Karabakh. The European Union has always emphasized the need to establish a stable political agreement concerning Nagorno Karabakh, which should be acceptable to both Armenia and Azerbaijan. The European Union cannot consider legitimate the "presidential elections" that are scheduled to take place on 11 August 2002 in Nagorno Karabakh. The European Union does not believe that these elections should have an impact on the peace process.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

Annex II to the letter dated 6 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic/English]

Press release

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is eyeing with deep concern the measures being taken by the Government of the Republic of Armenia in arranging for the 11 August 2002 presidential elections in the Nagorno-Karabakh area — a part of the Republic of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia since 1992.

OIC emphasizes that such measures, illegal as they are, may further complicate this issue, thereby jeopardizing the future of peace in the region.

While backing the policy of self-restraint followed by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, OIC calls for abidance of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, OIC and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe — all urging for the total withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azeri territories and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan so as to bring about security and stability in that important part of the world.

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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 9 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by His Excellency Mr. Vilayat Guliyev, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, at the 10th meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, held at Porto, Portugal, on 7 December 2002.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex urgently circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 22 (l) "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe" and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar T. **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan at the 10th meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, held at Porto, Portugal, on 7 December 2002

My country has subscribed to the statement made yesterday by the distinguished Minister of Ukraine on behalf of the GUUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova) group. Speaking in my national capacity, I join the previous speakers in extending appreciation to the outgoing Chairman-in-Office, Minister Martins da Cruz, and welcoming our new Chairman, Minister Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, and wish him every success in implementation of numerous tasks our organization is facing.

At the very outset, I would like to reconfirm our conviction that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has further to play its role in building a new Euro-Atlantic security architecture as the only all-inclusive pan-European institution. We have no reasons to be complacent or over-optimistic when it comes to practical realization of the potential of OSCE and its real effectiveness in coping with the complex challenges being encountered in the area of European security.

Regrettably, 2002 has become another wasted year in terms of rectifying serious deficiencies in the substance and methods of work at OSCE. The organization has not been successful and consistent in achieving implementation of its norms and principles. The most fundamental principles that European security builds upon, such as sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, have yet to be safeguarded throughout the whole OSCE region. This is crucially important, especially with regard to the settlement of the decade-long conflicts within its area. Lack of consistency in upholding OSCE values has nothing in common with the so-called flexibility of OSCE. How many more years are we going to tolerate this situation?

A selective approach in addressing similar problems in a number of regions continues to dominate OSCE. While topics related to human rights rightfully take a prominent place in the OSCE agenda, the participating States have hardly displayed the political will to look into the problems of millions of refugees in the OSCE region. Some parts of the OSCE region account for a greater part of the organization's attention and resources, while the others are not yet at the forefront of the OSCE agenda. Unless OSCE becomes of relevance to all of its participating States, the organization will gradually lose political support of its members.

There is no doubt that terrorism is one of the main threats to international and regional peace and security. It represents a grave challenge to the most fundamental human rights, endangering human lives and infringing upon human dignity. Terrorist acts have a direct negative impact on the stability and sustainable development of States and regions.

The tragic events of 11 September 2001 have once again clearly highlighted the urgent need to unite the efforts of the international community in combating

terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Ho double standards should be tolerated in addressing the various dimensions of this challenge.

In pursuing a goal of eradication of terrorism, one has to address its root causes, and to define its links with organized crime and its sources of financing. The factors causing terrorism and lawlessness, such as aggressive nationalism, violent extremism and armed separatism, should be dealt with by the international community in an effective and consistent manner. Serious attention needs to be paid to a complexity of risks and threats emanating from the territories controlled by separatists and turned into zones of all kinds of criminal activity, including arms smuggling, trafficking of drugs, trafficking in human beings and money-laundering.

The ongoing armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan threatens the security not only of my country but of the entire region and of Europe as a whole. There is no room for half-measures and a wait-and-see policy. The deteriorating situation urges principled approaches and calls for immediate action by the international community, including the Security Council. The early settlement of the conflict must finally become the major priority for OSCE, and we expect a contribution to be made in this regard by the incoming Netherlands Chairmanship.

Although since 1992 the Minsk process has not yielded tangible results, Azerbaijan still remains committed to the peaceful settlement of the conflict on the basis of the commonly recognized norms and principles of international law, the relevant Security Council resolutions and the appropriate OSCE documents and decisions.

However, Armenia should have no illusions — Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity by all means provided for by the United Nations Charter and international law.

With regard to the statement of the Armenian Minister on 6 December 2002, I would like to make the following observations.

Armenian rhetoric on "peace, cooperation and hand of friendship extended to Azerbaijan" is a cynical attempt to distract attention of the OSCE participating States from the decade-long aggression against my country and violated rights of Azerbaijani refugees. Having seized the Azerbaijani territories by military force, having ethnically cleansed one million Azerbaijanis from Armenia, the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven Azerbaijani districts around it, having pillaged and burned down hundreds of Azerbaijani towns and villages, having destroyed thousands of Azerbaijani historical and cultural objects and monuments in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia is now resorting to propagandistic tricks in trying to consolidate the results of aggression. Under these circumstances the legitimate right of Azerbaijan under international law to defend itself against aggression is presented by Armenia as "war-mongering".

I would like to mention that Azerbaijan has always been supportive of the concept of regional cooperation at both the multilateral and bilateral levels. My country is a co-founder and active member of such regionally focused initiatives as the Transport Corridor Europe Caucasia Asia (TRACECA) programme, the GUUAM group, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Council, the Economic Cooperation Organization and others. We develop fruitful and mutually beneficial multifaceted cooperation with our immediate neighbours — Georgia, the Islamic

Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and Turkey — building upon principles of good neighbourliness and mutual respect.

As regards our cooperation with Armenia, given the de facto state of war and continued occupation of the Azerbaijani territories, only the settlement of the conflict will pave the way to restoration of our cooperation with Armenia. Interruption of all our economic ties with Armenia is a natural consequence of aggressive policy, pursued against my country. We have to face the realities: trenches separating Armenian and Azerbaijani soldiers are located deep inside the territory of *my* country, and not Armenia, and they could hardly provide a good incentive for any bilateral endeavours. This has been the case in all other conflict zones so far and we have no reason to believe that the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan might represent any exception in this regard.

In respect to continuous efforts by Armenia to distort the very notion of the principle of self-determination, let me refer the Armenian Minister to the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe. The principle of self-determination in international law is applied along with principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of state borders, and is exercised in a peaceful manner. Demands for "independence" in the situation of military occupation by Armenia of the Azerbaijani territories has nothing in common with the principle of self-determination.

As to the Minister's numerous references to the so-called "people of Nagorno-Karabakh" I do not intend to enter into a discussion of whether the notion of "people" can be applied to an Armenian minority living in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Allow me just to recall that the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region consists of two communities — Azerbaijanis and Armenians. While historically Nagorno-Karabakh has been part of Azerbaijan, including also in the Soviet period, it has never been for a single day a part of Armenia.

The forceful expulsion of all Azerbaijanis from their homes in the Nagorno-Karabakh region has not changed the status of the region under international law as an inseparable part of Azerbaijan, or elevated the status of the Armenian community.

Regarding the ridiculous attempts of Armenia to portray itself as a "defender" of the Minsk group, it is worth mentioning that Armenia has repeatedly blocked the Minsk group's proposals. The Armenian Minister who participated in the OSCE Summit meeting held in Lisbon in 1996 might wish to recall that it was his country that rejected the proposals of the Minsk group supported by the heads of State and Government of all OSCE participating States.

Armenia has long been waging a covert war against the norms and principles of international law. Utter rejection by that country of any reference to principles of territorial integrity and inviolability of borders in any OSCE document was raised yesterday to a qualitatively new level — the outright call to change international boarders. Defiance of the fundamental principles of the Helsinki Final Act must be finally challenged.

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Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session, and to allocate to the Fifth Committee, the item entitled:

"Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors:

"(a) United Nations;

"(b) United Nations Development Programme;

"(c) United Nations Children's Fund;

"(d) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

"(e) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

"(f) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

"(g) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;

"(h) United Nations Population Fund;

"(i) United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

"(j) Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

"(k) United Nations Office for Project Services;

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"(l) International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991;

"(m) International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994".

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 9th to 11th and 15th meetings, from 16 to 18 and 24 October 2002. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.9-11 and 15).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Financial reports and audited financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2001 and reports of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations,[1] the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO,[2] the United Nations University,[3] the United Nations Development Programme,[4] the United Nations Children's Fund,[5] the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[6] the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,[7] the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[8] the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme,[9] the United Nations Population Fund,[10] the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,[11] the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme,[12] the United Nations Office for Project Services,[13] the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994[14] and the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991;[15]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/57/5), vol. I and corrigendum (A/57/5/Corr.1).
[2] Ibid., vol. III and corrigendum (A/57/5/Corr.2).
[3] Ibid., vol. IV and corrigendum (A/57/5/Corr.3).
[4] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5A* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.1 and Corr.1).
[5] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5B* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.2 and Corr.1).
[6] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5C* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.3 and Corr.1).
[7] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5D* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.4 and Corr.1).
[8] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5E* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.5 and Corr.1).
[9] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5F* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.6 and Corr.1).
[10] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5G* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.7 and Corr.1).
[11] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5H* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.8 and Corr.1).
[12] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5I* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.9 and Corr.1).
[13] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5J* and corrigenda (A/57/5/Add.10 and Corr. 1 and 2).
[14] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5K* and corrigenda (A/57/5/Add.11 and Corr. 1-3).
[15] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5L* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.12 and Corr.1).

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the concise summary of principal findings, conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports prepared by the Board of Auditors for the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (A/57/201);

(c) First report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors by the United Nations for the financial period ended 31 December 2001 (A/57/416);

(d) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/439).

4. At the 9th meeting, on 16 October, the Auditor-General of the Republic of South Africa and Chairman of the Board of Auditors introduced the reports of the Board (see A/C.5/57/SR.9).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.9

5. At its 15th meeting, on 24 October, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors" (A/C.5/57/L.9), informal consultations on which had been coordinated by the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the Chairman.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.9 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 50/222 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 E of 17 June 1997, 52/212 B of 31 March 1998, 53/204 of 18 December 1998, 53/221, section VIII, of 7 April 1999, 54/13 B of 23 December 1999 and 55/220 of 23 December 2000,

Having considered, for the period ended 31 December 2001, the financial reports, audited financial statements of and reports and audit opinions of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations,[16] the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO,[17] the United Nations University,[18] the United Nations Development Programme,[19] the United Nations Children's Fund,[20] the United

[16] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/57/5), vol. I and corrigendum (A/57/5/Corr.1).

[17] Ibid., vol. III and corrigendum (A/57/5/Corr.2).

[18] Ibid., vol. IV and corrigendum (A/57/5/Corr.3).

[19] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5A* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.1 and Corr.1).

[20] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5B* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.2 and Corr.1).

Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[21] the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,[22] the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[23] the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme,[24] the United Nations Population Fund,[25] the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,[26] the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme,[27] the United Nations Office for Project Services,[28] the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994,[29] and the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991,[30] the concise summary of principal findings, conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors,[31] the first report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors by the United Nations[32] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[33]

1. *Accepts* the financial reports and audited financial statements and the reports and audit opinions of the Board of Auditors for the above-mentioned organizations;

2. *Approves* the recommendations and conclusions contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors, and endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[33]

3. *Commends* the Board of Auditors for the quality of its reports, in particular with respect to its comments on the management of resources;

4. *Notes with concern* the late issuance of the reports of the Board of Auditors and the explanation therefor by the Chairman of the Board, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure sufficient priority in completing their editing and translation in order that they may be submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with the six-week rule;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors by the United Nations;

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[21] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5C* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.3 and Corr.1).
[22] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5D* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.4 and Corr.1).
[23] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5E* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.5 and Corr.1).
[24] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5F* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.6 and Corr.1).
[25] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5G* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.7 and Corr.1).
[26] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5H* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.8 and Corr.1).
[27] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5I* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.9 and Corr.1).
[28] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5J* and corrigenda (A/57/5/Add.10 and Corr.1 and 2).
[29] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5K* and corrigenda (A/57/5/Add.11 and Corr.1-3).
[30] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5L* and corrigendum (A/57/5/Add.12 and Corr.1).
[31] See A/57/201.
[32] A/57/416.
[33] A/57/439.

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the funds and programmes of the United Nations to examine governance structures, principles and accountability throughout the United Nations system and to make proposals on the future format and consideration of the reports of the Board of Auditors by the respective executive boards and the General Assembly;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors are fully taken into account in the revised strategy for information and communication technology for the United Nations, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/239 of 24 December 2001, before the strategy is considered by the Assembly;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Board of Auditors, to review the adequacy of the audit fee when considering the resources required for the Board of Auditors to carry out future specialized audits, to implement the provisions of the current resolution and to make appropriate recommendations in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

9. *Decides* to consider further the reports of the Board of Auditors on the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994[29] and the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991[30] also under the agenda items relating to the financing of the Tribunals.

United Nations A/57/640

General Assembly

Distr.: General
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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 119

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 5th, 6th and 15th meetings, on 2, 3 and 24 October 2002. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.5, 6 and 15).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2001;[1]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Enhancing governance oversight role: structure, working methods and practices on handling oversight reports" (A/57/58);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Enhancing governance oversight role: structure, working methods and practices on handling oversight reports" (A/57/58/Add.1);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2002 (A/57/61);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/57/34).

02-73066 (E) 121202

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the preliminary listing of potential reports for the work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2003 and beyond (A/57/321);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/57/327);

(g) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on reforming the Field Service category of personnel in United Nations peace operations (A/57/78), support costs related to extrabudgetary activities in organizations of the United Nations system (A/57/442) and strengthening the investigations function in United Nations system organizations (A/56/282), and its report entitled "Enhancing the governance oversight role: structure, working methods and practices on handling oversight report" (A/47/58) (A/57/434).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.7

4. At the 15th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Indonesia, coordinator of the informal consultations on agenda item 119, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/57/L.7).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.7 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Joint Inspection Unit

A

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 55/230 of 23 December 2000 and 56/245 of 24 December 2001,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2001;[2]

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the programme of work of the Unit for 2002;[3]

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[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/57/34).
[3] A/57/61.

3. *Also takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the preliminary listing of potential reports for the programme of work of the Unit for 2003 and beyond;[4]

4. *Takes note* in particular that, as noted in the preliminary listing of potential reports for the programme of work of the Unit for 2003 and beyond and reaffirmed by the Chairman of the Unit, the preliminary listing is of a tentative nature and does not necessarily imply that the Unit is committed to taking up those subjects;

5. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit;[5]

6. *Reiterates* its request to the executive heads of participating organizations to observe fully the time frame for submitting their comments, as called for in article 11, paragraphs 4 (d) and (e), of the statute of the Unit;

7. *Reiterates* the need for the Unit to place emphasis in its work on well-defined and timely items of high priority, identifying concrete managerial administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations;

8. *Stresses* the need for the Unit to pay special attention to the preparation of reports that are more evaluation-oriented;

9. *Invites* additional efforts by the Unit, the bureaux of the legislative organs and the secretariats concerned to ensure that the relevant reports of the Unit are submitted to the legislative organs of participating organizations and that those organs take specific action on the recommendations contained in the reports;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Unit to implement the follow-up mechanisms described in paragraphs 24 and 25 of its report for 2001[2] so as to ensure the systematic tracking of the status of implementation of the Unit's recommendations;

11. *Takes note* of the information contained in paragraphs 27 to 32 of the report of the Unit regarding the proposed new procedure for handling comments of the participating organizations on the findings and recommendations of the Unit, and invites the Unit to provide detailed information on the new procedure in comparison with the current procedure, together with the comments of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

12. *Reiterates* its request to the executive heads of the participating organizations that have not yet done so to take the steps necessary to facilitate the consideration of and action on the system of follow-up to the reports of the Unit, and invites the legislative organs concerned to consider the system and take action in that regard;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the executive heads of the other participating organizations for their attention;

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[4] A/57/321.
[5] A/57/327.

14. *Requests* the Unit to report to the General Assembly, in its next annual report, on the implementation of the present resolution.

B

Enhancing governance oversight role: structure, working methods and practices on handling oversight reports

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Enhancing governance oversight role: structure, working methods and practices on handling oversight reports"[6] and the comments of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[7] as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[8]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Enhancing governance oversight role: structure, working methods and practices on handling oversight reports"[6] and the comments of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon;[7]

2. *Concurs* with the observations and views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraphs 9 to 11 of its report;[8]

3. *Reaffirms* its decision, contained in paragraph 5 of its resolution 50/233 of 7 June 1996, to consider the thematic reports of the Unit under the relevant agenda items.

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[6] See A/57/58.

[7] A/57/58/Add.1.

[8] A/57/434.

United Nations A/57/641

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 25
Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 3 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to convey to him the comments of Turkey with regard to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in view of the forthcoming twentieth anniversary commemoration of its opening for signature (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be distributed as a document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly under agenda item 25.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Permanent Representative

02-73102 (E) 101202

Annex to the letter dated 3 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Turkey has always been supportive of the international efforts to establish a regime of the sea that is based on the principle of equity and that can be acceptable to all States. In this respect, Turkey has followed the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea with close interest and put forward concrete proposals during its deliberations. However, at the end of a long process of discussions, the result achieved, that is to say, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, was not successful in respect of attaining the balanced and equitable solution Turkey had strived for.

This unsatisfactory result arises from the fact that the Convention does not make adequate reference to exceptional geographical situations, and is not able to establish an acceptable balance between conflicting interests. Furthermore, the Convention makes no provision for registering reservations on specific clauses.

Turkey agrees with the Convention in its general intent and most of its provisions. However, in view of the aforementioned shortcomings, she is unable to become a party to the Convention.

It should be noted that Turkey has been involved in various international negotiation processes and entered into numerous agreements to regulate the regime of seas and different aspects of marine issues both in its region and at the global level. It is the strong belief of Turkey that any outstanding issues between countries should be brought to a peaceful resolution.

As a country that attaches great importance to the maintenance of international peace and stability, Turkey will continue to exert every effort to contribute to the search for peaceful solutions that would respond to the necessities of achieving a balanced and equitable outcome.

United Nations A/57/642–S/2002/1347

General Assembly
Security Council

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11 December 2002

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General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 160
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 10 December 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to draw your attention to the latest attack against Israel in violation of the Blue Line.

On Sunday morning, 8 December, at approximate 7.45 a.m. (local time), a large roadside bomb was detonated along the Blue Line, not far from Moshav Zarit in the Western Galilee. The explosion occurred as an Israel Defense Forces patrol vehicle passed by, indicating that the bomb was likely detonated by remote control. Two soldiers were seriously injured in the attack and were evacuated to a nearby hospital. A previously unknown group calling itself the Ramzi Nahra Shahid Group claimed responsibility for the attack, although evidence suggests the involvement of the terrorist organization Hizbullah.

Sunday's bombing along the Blue Line is far from an isolated incident. Since Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon in May 2000, in full and confirmed compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978), countless cross-border attacks have been perpetrated by terrorist groups operating freely in South Lebanon. To date, the Lebanese authorities have taken no steps to fulfil their obligations in accordance with the remaining provisions of resolution 425 (1978) — namely the establishment of their effective authority in the area and the restoration of international peace and security. The Government of Lebanon is also in violation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and established principles of international law, which clearly call upon all States to refrain from providing any support, whether active or passive, to all persons or entities involved in terrorist acts, and to ensure that their territory is not used as a base for cross-border attacks. Lebanon has also failed to comply with other provisions of that resolution, most significantly by refusing to freeze the assets of Hizbullah or close down the offices of the rejectionist Palestinian organizations that operate in Beirut.

Consequently, Israel holds the Government of Lebanon responsible for this act of terrorism and calls upon Lebanon to act immediately to respect its obligations under international law and Security Council resolutions. The Government of Syria,

02-73264 (E) 111202

which occupies part of Lebanon with tens of thousands of troops and is the main power broker in the country, also bears responsibility for this attack.

I submit this letter in follow-up to previous letters detailing cross-border violations of the Blue Line dated 8 July 2002 (A/56/1001-S/2002/743), 10 April 2002, 3 April 2002 (A/56/899-S/2002/348), 2 April 2002 (A/56/898-S/2002/345), 21 March 2002 (A/56/884-S/2002/301), 24 January 2002 (A/56/793-S/2002/115), 17 January 2002 (A/56/778-S/2002/79), 24 October 2001 (A/56/507-S/2001/1012), 5 October 2001 (A/56/443-S/2001/942), 6 July 2001 (A/56/161-S/2001/673), 16 April 2001 (S/2001/367), 16 February 2001 (A/55/792-S/2001/142), 6 February 2001 (A/55/767-S/2001/111), 26 November 2000 (S/2000/1121), 23 October 2000 (S/2000/1011), 19 October 2000 (S/2000/1002) and 7 October 2000 (S/2000/969).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 160, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aaron **Jacob**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

United Nations A/57/643

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 147

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 20th and 28th meetings, on 4 and 27 November 2002. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.20 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed donation of assets to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina (A/57/449) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/486).

II. Consideration of draft decision A/C.5/57/L.18

4. At the 28th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations, entitled "Proposed donation of assets to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina" (A/C.5/57/L.18).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/57/L.18 without a vote (see para. 6).

02-73633 (E) 131202

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Proposed donation of assets to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed donation of assets to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

(b) Approves the donation of assets to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as proposed by the Secretary-General.

[1] A/47/449.
[2] A/57/486.

United Nations A/57/644–S/2002/1364

General Assembly
Security Council

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13 December 2002

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General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 87
Environment and sustainable development

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 12 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the English translation of a note verbale, dated 1 December 2002, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Embassy of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan in Tehran (see annex), concerning the blockage of water flow in the Hirmand River, causing irreparable damage to the agriculture and animal husbandry in the Sistan region and the Hamun wetlands in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 87, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Javad **Zarif**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-74134 (E) 161202

Annex to the letter dated 12 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan in Tehran and, with reference to the note verbale dated 1 October 2002 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Embassy's respective Government concerning the flow of water towards Iran in the Hirmand River, has the honour to state the following:

The water started to flow, in a small quantity, into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the said river on 24 October 2002, but halted, once again, 15 days later. It should be recalled in this respect that the flow of water into the Islamic Republic of Iran in recent years has been much lower than the quota provided for in the 1973 Treaty on Hirmand. It has been completely blocked since 8 March 2000, causing enormous damage to the agriculture and animal husbandry in the region, and inflicting on its inhabitants major difficulties in obtaining their drinking-water supplies. Moreover, the internationally recognized wetland of Hamun has been completely dried out.

It should be emphasized that Afghanistan is under obligation, in accordance with the 1973 Treaty on Hirmand, to release 26 cubic metres of water per second into Iran on average. In the course of a joint inspection carried out by technical teams from Iran and Afghanistan to the Kajaki dam, in early September 2002, the two teams came to a joint conclusion that the flow of water at the hydrometric station at Dehrawud was 49 cubic metres per second and that the Kajaki dam had a considerable amount of water in its reservoir. Moreover, during the field observations conducted by the joint inspection team, the fact was established that the main cause of the water blockage was the closure of the gates at the Kajaki dam, which prevented the flow of water towards Iranian territory. Furthermore, information and evidence obtained through satellite photographs indicate that the amount of water in the upper reach of the Hirmand River and in the Kajaki dam has considerably increased in comparison to previous years, in particular since the joint inspections carried out in 2000 and 2002.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran expects Afghanistan, as a friendly country and on the basis of the good-neighbourly relations that exist between the two States, to implement the provisions of the 1973 Treaty concerning the sharing of Hirmand waters, as was emphasized by the heads of the two States in paragraph 3 of the instrument on cooperation between the two States signed on 27 February 2002 and underscored by the concerned authorities of Afghanistan, who signed the minutes of the meetings of the joint inspection team on 28 August 2002. Evidently, implementation of the 1973 Treaty will ameliorate, to a large extent, the unbearable living conditions of the inhabitants of the Sistan region and the Hamun wetlands caused by the blockage of the flow of water through the Hirmand River. Certainly, the sustained flow of water in the said river, in the quantity determined in accordance with the Treaty, will further strengthen the existing cordial relations between the two countries.

Considering the above-mentioned points and invoking article V of the 1973 Treaty on Hirmand, which stipulates "Afghanistan agrees that it shall take no action to deprive Iran totally or partially of its quota of the Hirmand water as fixed and defined by the provisions of articles II, III and IV of this Treaty", the Islamic Republic of Iran urges the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan to take all necessary measures to ensure the flow of water through the shared Parian River.

United Nations A/57/645

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Fifth Committee
Agenda items 112 and 38

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/57/L.20/Rev.1

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

1. At its 31st, 32nd and 37th meetings on 9, 10 and 13 December 2002, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/28) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/57/L.20. At the 31st meeting of the Fifth Committee, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/57/7/Add.20).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.31, 32 and 37).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/28) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/7/Add.20), decides to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/57/L.20/Rev.1, additional appropriations would be required for the programme budget for 2002-2003, in an amount of $182,900, under section 3, Political affairs, and an amount of $41,400 under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by an amount of $41,400 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Fifth Committee
Agenda items 112 and 38

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/57/L.27/Rev.1

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

1. At its 31st, 32nd and 37th meetings on 9, 10 and 13 December 2002, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/30) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/57/L.27. At the 31st meeting of the Fifth Committee, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee on the programme budget implications of A/57/L.27/Rev.1 (A/57/7/Add.21).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.31, 32 and 37).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/30) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/7/Add.21), decides to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/57/L.27/Rev.1, additional appropriations would be required for the programme budget for 2002-2003, in an amount of $11,631,400, under section 3, Political affairs, and an amount of $1,359,000, under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by an amount of $1,359,000, under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

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Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Human rights questions: human rights situation and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

The situation of human rights in Myanmar: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

1. At its 31st, 32nd and 37th meetings on 9, 10 and 13 December 2002, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/27) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48. At the 31st meeting of the Fifth Committee, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/57/7/Add.23).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.31, 32 and 37).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/27) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/7/Add.23), decides to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48, additional appropriations would be required for the programme budget for 2002-2003, in an amount of $163,900, under section 3, Political affairs, and an amount of $65,200 under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by an amount of $65,200 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

02-74011 (E) 131202

United Nations A/57/648

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 111

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 7th, 8th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 26th, 28th, 31st to 33rd and 38th meetings, on 14, 15, 21, 22, 24 October, 18 and 27 November and 9 to 11 and 16 December 2002. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 26, 28, 31-33 and 38).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Procurement reform

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on procurement reform (A/57/187);

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/7/Add.1, paras. 2-9);

Common services

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on common services (A/57/176);

(d) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/7/Add.3);

02-74359 (E) 181202

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/57/85);

(f) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-second session;[1]

(g) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/636).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.22

4. At the 28th meeting, on 27 November, the representative of Argentina, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on this question, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Procurement reform" (A/C.5/57/L.22).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.22 without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.45

6. At the 38th meeting, on 16 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005" (A/C.5/57/L.45), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Belgium, Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.45 without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

C. Draft decision A/C.5/57/L.14

8. At the 15th meeting, on 24 October, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Common services" (A/C.5/57/L.14), submitted by the Chairman.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/57/L.14 without a vote (see para. 15, draft decision I).

D. Draft decision A/C.5/57/L.41

10. At the 38th meeting, on 16 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Biennial programme of work of the Fifth Committee for 2003-2004" (A/C.5/57/L.41), submitted by the Chairman.

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), chap. II.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/57/L.41 without a vote (see para. 15, draft decision II).

E. Draft decision A/C.5/57/L.42

12. At the 38th meeting, on 16 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Action taken on certain items" (A/C.5/57/L.42), submitted by the Chairman.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/57/L.42 without a vote (see para. 15, draft decision III).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

14. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Procurement reform

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/214 B and 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 52/212 B of 31 March 1998, 52/252 of 8 September 1998, 53/204 and 53/208 B of 18 December 1998, 54/14 of 29 October 1999 and 55/247 of 12 April 2001,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on procurement reform[2] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

Stressing the importance of ensuring the safety of United Nations personnel and United Nations equipment,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[2] and of the comments and observations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[3]

2. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in addressing the concerns expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/247;

3. *Welcomes also* the efforts made by the Secretary-General to hold procurement seminars in various cities, in particular those located in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and urges him to intensify his efforts in this regard;

4. *Notes* the activities of the Common Services Procurement Working Group on enhancing the transparency and increasing the harmonization of procurement practices, and encourages the Secretary-General and the executive

[2] A/57/187.
[3] A/57/7/Add.1, paras. 2-9.

heads of the United Nations funds and programmes to continue their work in this regard;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the organizations of the United Nations system, consistent with their respective mandates, to improve their procurement practices, inter alia, by simplifying the registration process for vendors that have already registered with another body of the United Nations system, utilizing, among other things, the Internet, and by placing the procurement information on their respective web sites;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the organizations of the United Nations system, consistent with their respective mandates, to take further steps to increase procurement opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, through, inter alia, the technical assessment of vendors, that air safety standards are met for all United Nations air transport operations and, where feasible, for freight forwarding;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the United Nations Secretariat and affiliated funds and programmes fully implement all recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors regarding procurement, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that, on matters relating to procurement in the field, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations follows the principles of objectivity and impartiality while advising the Procurement Division;

10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly through the Office of Internal Oversight Services, no later than at its fifty-ninth session, a report on safeguarding air safety standards while procuring air services, in particular in the area of cargo airlifts, for the United Nations peacekeeping missions;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the present resolution, as well as on all other aspects of procurement reform, no later than at its fifty-ninth session.

Draft resolution II
Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit, in off-budget years, an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolutions 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/287 of 27 June 2002 and 57/__ of __ December 2002,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005,[4] the related recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[5] and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

1. *Endorses* the relevant conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[5] and the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[6]

2. *Reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(a) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

3. *Also reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

4. *Further reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

5. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to submit, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, the total amount of resources that he should have at his disposal, from all sources of financing, in order to implement fully all mandated programmes and activities;

6. *Notes* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include in the proposed budget outlines and proposed programme budget provisions for expenditures for special political missions related to peace and security expected to be extended or approved in the course of the biennium;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make appropriate provisions in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 to minimize adverse impacts on the provision of adequate conference services and other related services, in accordance with its resolutions 56/254 D and 56/287, drawing, inter alia, on the improvements made in the management of conference services;

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[4] A/57/85.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), chap. II, paras. 25 and 26.

[6] See A/57/636.

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of 2,876 million United States dollars at revised 2002-2003 rates;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to resubmit the proposed information technology strategy in accordance with resolution 56/239 of 24 December 2001 during the resumed fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

11. *Decides* to consider in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, in addition to the preliminary estimate, a provision in the amount of 29.8 million dollars for information technology and common services facility infrastructure, bearing in mind the comments of the Secretary-General in paragraph 5 of his report;[4]

12. *Also decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

13. *Further decides* that the priorities for the biennium 2004-2005 are the following:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of his preliminary indicative estimates contained in the proposed budget outline to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 13 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

15. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely at 21.6 million dollars, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

* * *

15. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Common services

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on common services.[7]

Draft decision II
Biennial programme of work of the Fifth Committee for 2003-2004

The General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 6 of its resolution 46/220 of 20 December 1991, approves the biennial programme of work of the Fifth Committee for the biennium 2003-2004, which is annexed to the present decision.

Annex

Biennial programme of work of the Fifth Committee for 2003-2004

A
Programme of work for 2003

1. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations
2. Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003
3. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005
4. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations
5. Joint Inspection Unit
6. Pattern of conferences
7. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations
8. United Nations common system
9. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services
10. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations
11. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations
12. Report of the Economic and Social Council
13. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

B
Programme of work for 2004

1. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

[7] A/57/176.

2. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

3. Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

4. Programme planning

5. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations

6. Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

7. Pattern of conferences

8. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

9. Human resources management

10. United Nations common system

11. United Nations pension system

12. Joint Inspection Unit

13. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

14. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

15. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

16. Report of the Economic and Social Council

17. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

Draft decision III
Action taken on certain items

The General Assembly decides that the Fifth Committee should continue its consideration of the following agenda items at its resumed fifty-seventh session:

Item 110: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors;

Item 111: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations;

Item 112: Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003;

Item 114: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations;

Item 116: Pattern of conferences;

Item 117: Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations;

Item 118: Human resources management;

Item 122: Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

Item 123: Administration of justice at the United Nations;

Item 126: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations;

Item 127: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East:

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon;

Item 128: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo;

Item 129: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor;

Item 130: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea;

Item 131: Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola;

Item 132: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991):

(a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;

(b) Other activities;

Item 133: Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor;

Item 134: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone;

Item 135: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara;

Item 136: Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan;

Item 137: Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force;

Item 138: Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia;

Item 139: Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters;

Item 140: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II;

Item 141: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique;

Item 142: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus;

Item 143: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia;

Item 144: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti;

Item 145: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia;

Item 146: Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda;

Item 147: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Item 148: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group;

Item 149: Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti;

Item 150: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic;

Item 151: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.